



20th January 2021

Leaving Certificate & Junior Cycle Mocks Update

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to thank those students & parents/guardians who took the time to complete the surveys regarding the scheduled mocks for our 3rd & 6th year students. All stakeholders were surveyed and all views & opinions were taken on-board.

3rd Year & 6th Year are always a year where there are high levels of worry, stress and anxiety surrounding the State Examinations. Added into this mix is course work in the form of CBA's, Project work, Oral exams, practical exams, CAO choice, Senior cycle choice to name but a few.

In this current environment, it is very hard to plan for the 1st February let alone for the next few days as the situation is constantly changing and the goal posts keep moving. There are too many variables at play.

Some of the major concerns are:

- There is now only one company supplying papers, this company will not correct any exams not ordered before Christmas. Therefore, an issue arises around who will correct them. It has always been best practice that students would benefit from an outside person correcting their work.
- Time – e.g. 2-hour exams, 3-hour exams – students need a mask break every hour minimum. This would mean an even longer day on students.
- If they were to be postponed, when do we postpone them until. We have been told the 1st February, but what happens if this is further extended. March is a very busy time for exam years for the reasons I set out at the start.
- If postponed they could eat into a further two weeks of in class tuition time.
- There is massive worry & concern amongst students & parents/Guardians
- There is also concern amongst students in particular re: integrity of the mock in this current environment – with only 1 company etc. – how many students will have the papers and how fair a reflection will the result be for those who work genuinely hard and do not have the papers etc.



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To this end it has been decided to cancel the mocks for 3rd & 6th years for this academic year, we feel that the students need an answer and now need to focus on their course work, project work and the state exams in June.

In lieu of the mocks, we will be doing class based assessments in the form of class tests & continuous assessment with 3rd & 6th years between now and the end of the academic year in May. A plan for this is currently being drawn up and this will be communicated to all stakeholders in the next day or two.

In relation to those who have paid for their mocks, this money will be refunded, so there is no need to contact the school in relation to same. You can understand with 132 - 3rd years & 135 - 6th years that this process will take a little time.

The decision to cancel the mocks has not been an easy decision, but it is one the staff and I believe is the best one for the student's well-being at this moment in time.

Wishing you every best wish as we continue to work through these tough times.

Stay safe & well.

Kind Regards,

William Ryan

Principal